Revive a dead ballpoint pen with these 2 simple tricks

Revive a dead ballpoint pen with these 2 simple tricks

We've all been there, you come to use a ballpoint pen which you've left sitting around for a while and it doesn't work. Simply does not want to write. You scribble and scribble, but nothing.

Don't fret though, there's a few simple tricks you can try which might get your beloved ballpoint working again.

USE HEAT

There's a few ways you can do this and they all work the same. Using heat loosens the dried ink around the ballpoint tip, this should get the ball moving and the ink flowing once more.

Our favourite method is using a lighter. Just put the flame at the very tip for a few seconds. Mind not to touch the tip after!

You'll get the same results from a hairdryer or from soaking in a pot of boiling water.

USE A SOLVENT

Solvents will dissolve the ink and should get everything flowing. Nail polisher remover (with acetone) and rubbing alcohol both work wonders. Simply put a little onto some cotton wool and wrap around the tip for a few minutes. Wipe clean and write!

FRICTION

The point of scribbling furiously to get your refill writing, is that friction acts on the stuck ball and get it moving again. Sometimes though the friction of pen on paper just isn't great enough.

Try scribbling on the sole of a shoe or something made of rubber. A combination of the increased friction and the pen's tip gripping more firmly to the rubber will quickly heat up the dried ink, ensuring your pen is ready to be used again.

Still can't get your ballpoint refill to work? Perhaps it is just time for a new one. Shop here (https://www.penheaven.co.uk/refills-ink/ballpoint-refills).

Not sure which refill you need? Try our refill finder (https://www.penheaven.co.uk/blog/pen-refill-finder-and-guide).

About the Author

David Cole

Why do Fountain Pens Leak at Higher Altitudes? (https://www.penheaven.com/blog/why-do-fountain-pens-leak-at-higher-altitudes)

Diamond Jubilee Competition - win x 2 journals! (https://www.penheaven.com/blog/diamond-jubilee-competition)

Comments

Login

Name * Your display name

Email * Your email

Comment Type comments here...

Comment

Ken Stokes

please tell me if there should be a small spring at tip of Parker51 ballpoint pen. My refill is loose and unusable.

Reply

September 11, 2014

Paul Tomlinson

Hi Ken, sorry for the late reply! We don't stock the 51 so we recommend contacting Parker directly for guidance on your pen. We can confirm, however, that most ballpoints are supposed to have a spring inside the tip, so if there is one missing from your pen, that would be the reason that it is unstable. Hope that's some help.

Reply

October 9, 2014

Lasane

the first method is really useful, i use the fire all the time well my ballpoint pen doesn't pull the ink out. However, i have read an article and saw another method is put the pen into the alcohol for 10-15 minutes.

Reply

August 24, 2017

Gemma Plumbridge

Thanks for the info Lasane. We're sure our other readers will find this very helpful!

Reply

August 24, 2017

Gemma Plumbridge

Thanks for the info Lasane. We're sure our other readers will find this very helpful!

Reply

August 24, 2017

Lasane

the first method is really useful, i use the fire all the time well my ballpoint pen doesn't pull the ink out. However, i have read an article and saw another method is put the pen into the alcohol for 10-15 minutes.

Reply

August 24, 2017

Paul Tomlinson

Hi Ken, sorry for the late reply! We don't stock the 51 so we recommend contacting Parker directly for guidance on your pen. We can confirm, however, that most ballpoints are supposed to have a spring inside the tip, so if there is one missing from your pen, that would be the reason that it is unstable. Hope that's some help.

Reply

October 9, 2014

Ken Stokes

please tell me if there should be a small spring at tip of Parker51 ballpoint pen. My refill is loose and unusable.

Reply

September 11, 2014

Join our Newsletter

Get fresh exclusive deals for trendy and unique gifts delivered right to your inbox.

Enter your email address SIGN UP